

STAT

Approved For Release 2004/01/16 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500340037-3

ary intelligence plus an immediate return to the firm policy invoked by the President last fall which gave us then some feeling of security.

The lead editorial in the Monday, February 4 edition of the Tampa Tribune, one of my State's great daily newspapers, contains strong and needed words on this subject from which I would like to quote at this time. Before doing so, however, let me say that the Tribune has always taken a bipartisan attitude on national affairs and is not a habitual critic of either the Democratic Party or the present administration. Most importantly, Tribune editorials almost invariably reflect the thinking of large numbers of its many thousands of readers.

In an editorial entitled "A Monument to Failure" the Tribune stated, in part:

Fidel Castro has turned up in a new role. As a patron of the arts, he has scraped up \$15,000 in prize money and has invited architects the world over to submit designs for a \$2 million monument commemorating the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion.

When it is completed it will stand not only as a memorial to the Bay of Pigs fiasco but as one to the miserable failure of the United States to deal effectively with what now has become an entrenched Communist bridgehead in the Western Hemisphere.

Despite White House denials that there has been a recent Soviet "military influx" into Cuba avidence accumulates that the Russians are continuing to strengthen their Cuban arsenal and that the United States is doing nothing about it.

While the Peotagon and State Department shrug off such reports, they are largely supported by stories of refugees coming out of Cuba who say that both Russian troops and arms continue to pour into the island.

One might feel more confidence in the Government's intelligence reports had not their shortcomings been evident during the missile buildup last fall.

Defense Secretary McNamara told a congressional committee late last week that the Russian missiles were secretly loaded and transported to Cuba in the holds of large Soviet ships.

"Since all the strategic missile-associated equipment, such as erectors and transporters, and the missiles themselves, were concealed in the holds of the ships and unloaded under the cover of darkness, and under most stringent Soviet-controlled security restrictions, photographic surveillance at the time was unable to discover the initial introduction of offensive missiles into Cuba."

How can the Pentagon be so certain that the Soviet technique is not now being employed to smuggle arms and perhaps missiles into Cuba?

Even if Pentagon estimates are accepted, we know that there are 17,000 or more Soviet troops in Cuba. We know that the Soviet arsenal contains a wide variety of ground-to-air missiles, all manner of tanks, artillery, trucks, armament, patrol boats and approximately 1,000 fighter planes.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk concedes "a significant" Soviet military presence in Cuba which is of great concern to the United States. But the Kennedy administration is doing precious little to relieve this concern.

It has ~~not~~ put into effect the regulation, drawn up last fall's showdown with Russia, designed to strangle Cuba's economic life by cutting off shipping.

Approved For Release 2004/01/16 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500340037-3
in a joint venture by Cuba and the Cuban government-in-exile to

specify the eventual overthrow of the Castro regime.

It has restrained Cuban refugee groups from continuing harassing attacks on Castro's forces.

There is no indication that it is supplying or helping build anti-Castro guerrilla forces inside Cuba. Nor are there signs that it is making more than a casual attempt to urge other hemispheric nations to build increased diplomatic pressure on Cuba.

In short, from all outward signs, the Kennedy administration is sitting still while Fidel builds his monument, a memorial for the Bay of Pigs but to the failure of the United States to face up to its responsibilities.

The points raised by this editorial are vital ones which deserve the close attention of this body and definitive action by the administration. I am most hopeful that the investigation now being launched by Senator STENNIS' Subcommittee on Preparedness Investigating will be effective in correcting the unfortunate situation which now exists. I have been able to supply this subcommittee with sonic pertinent information, and I will continue to support its work in every possible way. I strongly hope, and I urge, that the executive department will be completely helpful and frank with Senator STENNIS and the other able members of his subcommittee and that early publicity may be given to all of the facts which can be established. My people, and the people of the Nation, in general, are entitled to know what the facts are, and not to be left to choose between the conflicting statements and rumors which now plague them.

I also ask unanimous consent that there be printed in the Record at this point an editorial entitled "U.S. Public in Dark on Cuba," published in the Panama City News-Herald of Sunday, February 3, 1963.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

U.S. Public in Dark on Cuba

The Kennedy administration is screaming "red" over pressure for a thorough investigation into negotiations between the United States and Russia over Soviet missiles in Cuba, claiming demands for a probe are only partisan efforts to discredit the Democratic regime.

Crit of the matter is the removal of American intermediate range missiles from bases in Italy and Turkey concurrent with an apparent buildup of Russian military strength in Cuba. Far from being partisan, demands for more information on the problem are being made by both Republicans and Democrats.

The administration has issued the explanation that its Jupiter missiles are being removed from Italy and Turkey because they are now somewhat obsolete and not needed, that the Polaris submarines can do a better job.

However, the respected London Times has commented that the planned withdrawal of U.S. Jupiter missiles from bases in Italy and Turkey shows that "President Kennedy is prepared to carry out what Mr. Khrushchev demanded as the price of removing Soviet missiles from Cuba."

Senator WARREN SIMPSON, Wyoming, Republican, went on record last week with the statement that President Kennedy is ful-

CONT.